GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:57
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2001
BAN ON MINING OF ASBESTOS
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to ban all activities associated with asbestos including its mining manufacturing use and trade on account of the health hazards in pose;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received a request for ban on asbestos from environmentalists and doctors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) No Sir. However, mining, manufacture of asbestos and asbestos-based products is regulated as per the provisions and procedures of EIA Notification, 1994.Crocidolite (Blue Asbestos) has been put in the restricted list of imports by Ministry of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade in October, 1994. Further, import of waste asbestos (dust and fibre) has been prohibited by Gazette Notification dated 13.10.1998.

(c) to (e) As per the reports available, no such request from environmentalists and doctors have been received.